

Message Text

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SUBJECT: NEW SOVIET FORESTRY LEGISLATION

SUMMARY: SUPREME SOVIET HAS PASSED NEW FORESTRY LEGISLATION.
THE LAW AND THE DECREE BECOME THE FIRST MAJOR LEGISLATION
SIGNED BY BREZHNEV IN HIS NEWLY-ADDED CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN
OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET. LEGISLATION HAS
THE USUAL OBJECTIVE: PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND REPRO-
DUCTION, BETTER-PLANNED USE FOR MULTIPLE PURPOSES, AND MORE
RATIONAL USE OF FOREST RESOURCES FOR PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES.
SPEECHES OUTLINE PROBELMS OF THE INDUSTRY AND CALL FOR
BETTER MACHINERY AND SCIENTIFIC TECHNOLOGY. ALTHOUGH NOT
REALLY MENTIONED, MORE MODERN MANAGEMENT IS ALSO NEEDED.
END SUMMARY.

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1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. ON JUNE 17 THE SUPREME SOVIET
PASSED A LAW RATIFYING THE NEW "FUNDAMENTALS OF FORESTRY
LEGISLATION; AND A DECREE ON "MEASURES FOR THE FURTHER IMPROVE-
MENT OF FORESTRY PROTECTION AND RATIONAL USE OF TIMBER
RESOURCES." THEY BECOME THE FIRST ONES SIGNED BY BREZHNEV
IN HIS NEWLY-ADDED CAPACITY OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM
OF THE SUPREME SOVIET. IN THIS HE FOLLOWS IN THE TRADITION

OF LENIN, FOR THE BASIC LAWS ON FORESTRY AFTER THE REVOLUTION WERE FORMULATED IN THE DECREE "ON FORESTRY" SIGNED BY LENIN IN MAY 1918, AN HISTORICAL LINEAGE MENTIONED BY SPEAKERS DURING THE SUPREME SOVIET'S TWO-DAY CONSIDERATION OF THE NEW MEASURE.

2. THE LEGISLATION HAS THE USUAL OBJECTIVES: PROTECTION (ESPECIALLY AGAINST FIRE), PRESERVATION AND REPRODUCTION, BETTER-PLANNED USE OF FOREST AREAS FOR MULTIPLE PURPOSES, AND RATIONAL UTILIZATION OF FORESTRY RESOURCES FOR PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES. THE NEW LEGISLATION INCORPORATES A NUMBER OF CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED DRAFT. A NEW ARTICLE 43 PROVIDES, IN THE WORDS OF ONE SPEAKER, FOR "EQUITABLE RESOLUTION" OF CONTROVERSIES ABOUT FORESTRY USE AND PROTECTION OF THE "LEGITIMATE INTERESTS" OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND CITIZENS IN THE "UTILIZATION, PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION" OF FORESTS. (FOR A SUMMARY OF OTHER CHANGES, SEE SPEECH BY KARLOV IN JUNE 17 IZVESTIA.)

3. A FUNDAMENTAL GOAL APPEARS TO BE INCREASED GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL OVER THE USE OF FOREST AREAS AND BETTER-PLANNED, MULTI-PURPOSE EXPLOITATION OF THEM. FORESTS ARE DIVIDED INTO GROUPINGS ACCORDING TO THEIR SIZE AND SIGNIFICANCE, AND THE LEGISLATION CAREFULLY DELIMITS THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. IT PUTS MORE RESPONSIBILITY ONTO THE LOCAL SOVIETS, ESPECIALLY IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOREST FIRE PROTECTION. (SEE FULL TEXT OF NEW LAW IN JUNE 18 IZVESTIA.)

4. ITEMS OF ECONOMIC INTEREST IN THE DELIBERATIONS INCLUDE:

(1) A MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1976-80) IS TO INCREASE THE ROLE OF CHEMICAL AND CHEMICAL-MECHANICAL PROCESSING OF TIMBER.

(2) FYP GOAL REMAINS A 22-25 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE TOTAL OUTPUT OF THE SECTOR.

(3) THE PLAN IS TO EXPAND TIMBER FELLING AND ITS PROCESSING IN SIBERIA AND THE SOVIET FAR EAST.

(4) ANNUAL INVESTMENT IN FORESTRY IS MORE THAN 1,000 MILLION RUBLES, OF WHICH OVER 160 MILLION GOES INTO REFORESTATION.

(5) ANNUAL PROCUREMENT IS OVER 400 MILLION CUBIC METERS OF TIMBER, AND IN 1976 SAWN-LUMBER EXCEEDED 112 MILLION CUBIC METERS.

5. SEVERAL SPEAKERS, AS WELL AS PRAVDA'S JUNE 20 EDITORIAL, POINT OUT SHORTCOMINGS IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR. THE LISTINGS ARE HEADED BY INADEQUATE PROTECTION AGAINST FOREST FIRES AND INCLUDE SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES BETWEEN PROCUREMENT AND

PLACE OF USE, THE LACK OF CHEMICAL PROCESSING PLANTS NEAR THE SOURCES OF TIMBER, THE DIFFUSION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROCUREMENT AND PROCESSING AMONG NUMEROUS MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES, INEFFICIENCIES AND LOSSES DURING THE MANUFACTURE OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS, AND SHORTFALLS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF NEW, BETTER, MORE SOPHISTICATED MACHINERY FOR THE INDUSTRY.

6. FULLEST ACCOUNTS OF SPEECHES AND LEGISLATION APPEAR IN IZVESTIA NUMBERS 142, 143 AND 144, THAT IS, THOSE FOR FRIDAY, FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY NIGHT, JUNE 17 AND 18, 1977.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

7. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: THE TIMBER AND PAPER INDUSTRIES HAVE LONG BEEN IN DIFFICULTIES. EQUIPMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND TECHNIQUES NEED MODERNIZING; ESPECIALLY IN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT, THEY TEND TO BE BOTH OLD AND OLD-FASHIONED. THE AMOUNTS OF TIME--LARGE PARTS OF TWO DAYS--DEVOTED TO FORESTRY BY THE SUPREME SOVIET REFLECTS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEMS AND THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO BOTH THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS OF FORESTRY NOW. THE EXTENSIVE NEWS COVERAGE LIKEWISE REFLECTS A DECISION TO INFORM AND INVOLVE THE PUBLIC.

8. GREATER EFFICIENCY IN THE INDUSTRY WILL, HOWEVER, DEPEND ON BETTER EQUIPMENT AND MORE MODERN MANAGEMENT. US FIRMS' SALES IN THIS FIELD HAVE THUS FAR BEEN MODEST, BUT EMBASSY HOPES TO DEEPEN AMERICAN MARKET PENETRATION WITH SEMINAR/MINI-EXHIBIT AT COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN JANUARY 1978 ON EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY FOR LOGGING INDUSTRY (SEE MOSCOW 8628). END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
TOON

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